

From the Editor . . .

The current Spring/Fall 2024 issue of *Nineteenth-Century Prose* is a special double issue on “Language Collectors of the Long Nineteenth Century,” by our own Margaret Sönmez, who normally serves as our Review Editor and proofreader. Since the topic is largely foreign to me, I will simply say that I’m pleased that the issue includes some unusual topics, such as Basque dialects and Chinese language acquisition by Japanese speakers. I think these may be the most unusual, not to say exotic, topics we have covered in the fifty-one-year life-span of *Nineteenth-Century Prose* and its forebears. And it’s appropriate, too, to think in terms of a backward look at the history of our journal, because this is our final issue—not just *my* final issue as editor-in-chief, but the last issue of the journal. Under ordinary circumstances, my nearly thirty-five-year stint as editor, and before that a few years as Review Editor that continued on well into my editorship, is quite enough. Along the way, on several occasions I sought to find a replacement editor, but to no avail. I thought it was not a good idea to have a single editor for such a long term, but there were no takers. And in recent years, I worried that if I became incapacitated or dropped dead, the journal would be left hanging in mid-issue (I just turned 80-years-old a couple of months back.)

In sum, farewell faithful readers and faithful Editorial Board members! But as Milton would say, “Nothing is here for tears!” Fairwell, too, long nights of drudging away, editing and compositing!

Barry Charles Tharaud